

We Claim:

1. A device for detecting an edge of a printing plate in an exposer for recording printing originals, comprising:

an exposure drum for holding the printing plate and having a surface with a groove formed therein;

an exposure head to be moved axially along said exposure drum and focuses exposure beams onto the printing plate; and

a sensing device having a sensing finger that can be pivoted into said groove, said sensing device further having a sensor outputting a signal when said sensing finger moves after touching the edge of the printing plate.

2. The device according to claim 1, wherein said sensor is a light barrier.

3. The device according to claim 1, wherein said sensor is a microswitch.

4. The device according to claim 1, further comprising a fixed connection between said sensing device and said exposure head.

5. The device according to claim 3, wherein said sensing device has three contact points and a pivot connected firmly to said sensing finger, said sensing finger and said pivot bear on said three contact points in an engaged position.

6. The device according to claim 5, further comprising:

a motor; and

a driver pin being driven by said motor and pressing said sensing finger and said pivot against said three contact points.

7. The device according to claim 3, wherein said sensing device has three contact points projecting from said sensing finger.

8. The device according to claim 7, wherein said sensing device contains:

a contact plate;

a rotary arm;

a motor; and

a joint connecting said sensing finger to said rotary arm, said rotary arm being driven by said motor and presses said sensing finger with said three contact points against said contact plate.

9. The device according to claim 1, wherein the exposer is an external drum exposer.

10. A method for detecting an edge of a printing plate in an exposer for recording printing originals, which comprises the steps of:

providing an exposure drum for holding the printing plate;

providing an exposure head to be moved axially along the exposure drum and focuses exposure beams onto the printing plate;

pivoting a sensing finger into a groove formed in a surface of the exposure drum; and

generating, using a sensor, a signal when the sensing finger moves after touching the edge of the recording material.

11. The method according to claim 10, which further comprises providing a feed drive for moving the sensing finger and the sensor axially along the exposure drum.

12. The method according to claim 11, which further comprises determining an axial position of the edge of the printing plate by counting cycles of the feed drive.

13. The method according to claim 11, which further comprises forming the exposer as an external drum exposer.